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October 12, 2004

### OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

**WEST VIRGINIA** - The forecast for the 2004 **apple** production is 85 million pounds (2.02 million 42-lb. bushel equivalents), unchanged from the August 1 forecast, but down 2 million pounds or 2 percent from the 2003 crop.

**Other hay** production is forecast at 988,000 tons, up 4 percent from the 2003 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 520,000 acres in 2004, up 20,000 acres from 2003. Yield is expected to average 1.9 tons per acre, unchanged from last year's yield. Due to program modifications, October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not being published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2005.

The current estimate for **tobacco** production is 1.95 million pounds, up 25 percent from 2003. This estimate is carried forward from our August 1 forecast.

### UNITED STATES

**Apples:** The final production forecast for the 2004 crop year is 9.46 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the August 1 forecast and 10 percent above 2003. Of the 7 States making October 1 production forecasts, New York and Washington increased from the August 1 forecast, Virginia and West Virginia remained unchanged, while Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania decreased from August. Growers in the Eastern States and Central apple producing regions are expecting decreases in production from the August 1 forecast, while producers in the Western region are expecting an increase. Compared to 2003, production increases in the Eastern and Western States more than offset decreases in the Central States.

**Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures:** Production is forecast at 77.4 million tons, virtually unchanged from the August forecast but up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.48 tons per acre, unchanged from August but 0.24 ton above last year. Harvested area is 22.2 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 6 percent from 2003.

**Other Hay:** Production is forecast at 88.5 million tons, up 5 percent from August and up 10 percent from 2003. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.25 tons, up 0.10 ton from August and 0.22 ton above last year. If realized, both yield and production will be the highest on record. Harvested area is 39.4 million acres, unchanged from the August estimate but down 1 percent from the previous year.

**Corn for grain:** Production is forecast at 11.6 billion bushels, up 6 percent from last month and 15 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of October 1, the yield is expected to average 158.4 bushels per acre, up 9.0 bushels from September and 16.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are forecast at record high levels in all Corn Belt States, except Minnesota and Wisconsin, as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 73.3 million acres of corn for grain, down 66,000 acres from September but up 3 percent from 2003.

**Soybean:** Production is forecast at 3.11 billion bushels, up 10 percent from the September forecast and 27 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average a record high 42.0 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from September. Based on administrative data, acreage updates were made in several States. Area planted is now estimated at 75.1 million acres, up 256,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 74.0 million acres, up 335,000 from September.

**All Tobacco:** U.S. all tobacco production is forecast at 883 million pounds, virtually unchanged from the September forecast but up 10 percent from 2003. Area for harvest is forecast at 409,610 acres, 1 percent below last month and down less than 1 percent from 2003. Yields for 2004 are expected to average 2,156 pounds per acre, 22 pounds higher than last month's forecast and 204 pounds above a year ago.

**Burley Tobacco:** Production is expected to total 302 million pounds, virtually unchanged since September but up 7 percent since 2003. Growers plan to harvest 154,100 acres, down 1 percent since last month but up 1 percent since last year. Yields are expected to average 1,958 pounds per acre, up 29 pounds since last month and 108 pounds more than a year ago.